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Reagan Drops 11 in Foreign Policy Advisory Group

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 4 — President Reagan has dismissed 11 of the 21 members of a committee of outside advisers who help him develop his foreign intelligence policies, the White House said today.

The White House disclosed nothing of its decision to "streamline" the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board until today, when the 11 members received the President's dismissal letter, dated Nov. 1.

According to one of the recipients, Mr. Reagan said in his letter: "It has become clear that the board has grown to a size which makes it difficult to focus intimately and actively on some of the new critical intelligence problems we will have to address. I intend therefore to reconstitute and streamline the board."

A senior Administration official said the group had become an unwieldy "monstrosity" and that it had become "strife-ridden and contentious." "There were many people who normally disagreed so much it became useless," the official said. The group's meetings with Mr. Reagan, which have taken place every two months, have grown shorter since early this year.

The official said the President had decided to reduce membership to 14. Among the remaining members of the group are Henry A. Kissinger, the former Secretary of State, William French Smith, the former Attorney General and Clare Boothe Luce, the former ambassador and Congressman. Four new members will be named shortly, Administration sources said.

Some of those removed said that the dismissals shifted the political balance of the board, and that members with ties to Vice President Bush now outnumber longtime supporters of Mr. Reagan. "By taking people off, you shift the political gravity," said Martin C. Anderson, Mr. Reagan's former domestic policy adviser who was among

those dismissed from the board.

Mr. Anderson, and others who spoke on condition they not be identified, said that all but two of those dismissed were close supporters of Mr. Reagan. He said the chairman of the board, Anne L. Armstrong, a Texan who is a former ambassador to Britain, is often identified with Mr. Bush.

Shirley Green, a spokesman for Mr. Bush, said the White House decided to remove the 11 last month, while the Vice President was in China, and that he knew nothing about it until Mrs. Armstrong told him on his return.

Other Administration officials noted that the remaining 10 included Howard H. Baker Jr., the former Senate majority leader, who may oppose Mr. Bush in the 1988 race for the Republican Presidential nomination. Three others, Mrs. Luce, Mr. Smith and W. Glenn Campbell, director of the Hoover Institution, a research center, are also often identified with the President.

Besides Mr. Anderson, those dismissed were Eugene V. Rostow, the former director of Mr. Reagan's Arms Control and Disarmament Agency; Gen. Robert H. Barrow, former commandant of the Marine Corps; Alan Greenspan, the conservative economist; Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Also, Peter O'Donnell Jr., a Dallas investor and Republican fund-raiser; Harrison H. Schmitt, the former astronaut who was a Republican senator from New Mexico; Paul Seabury, a professor of political science at the University of California at Berkeley; Robert Six, founder and former chairman of Continental Airlines who is an old Hollywood friend of Mr. Reagan's; Edward Bennett Williams, a lawyer also served on the board under President Carter, and Seymour Weiss, a former ambassador and senior State Department official.

Several of those dismissed agreed that the board had become unwieldy. "That part is legitimate," Mr. Weiss said. "I also agree with the utility of making it a smaller group. It was not effective given its size."

The other members remaining on the board are Leo Cherne, an economist who is the board's vice chairman; John S. Foster, Jr., an executive with TRW Inc., William O. Baker, former chairman of Bell Telephone Laboratories, and A. D. Wheelon, an executive with Hughes Aircraft.